REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 23 March 2005. Responsive to that Office Action, Claims 1 and 4-5 are amended for further prosecution with the other pending Claims. It is believed that with such amendment of Claims, there is a further clarification of their recitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art of Fig. 1 in view of the Huang reference. In this regard, the Examiner cited Huang for teaching in its Fig. 5 the use of a digital-to-analog converter system in a synthesizer. The Examiner concluded from this that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the feature into the admitted prior art.

As for Claims 4-12, the Examiner merely objected to those Claims for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that these Claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Of these, Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to independent form, incorporating the subject matter of Claim 1, from which each had depended. Thus, it is now believed that Claims 4-5, as well as Claims 8 and 11-12, which depend therefrom, are now in allowable form.

Claims 6 and 7 are left in their original dependent form so as to avoid additional filing fees. Even then, it is believed that these claims, as well as Claims

9-10, which depend therefrom, would also be allowable in light of the clarifying amendments to Claim 1 incorporated hereby.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to now more clearly recite among its combination of features a signal transform unit which receives and transforms "a series of digital speech codes defining a waveform having positive and negative half cycles." As the Claim further clarifies, such transformation provides "an analog speech signal with its negative half cycles inverted to positive polarity."

The full combination of these and other features are now more clearly recited by Claim 1 is nowhere disclosed by the admitted prior art or Huang reference cited by the Examiner. As the Prior Art Figs. 2(A)-2(B) of the subject Patent Application readily illustrate, the negative half cycle of the analog signal Ivo remains negative in polarity relative to the preceding positive half cycle. Indeed, one of the deficiencies pointed out in the Specification derives in part from this very fact (*see* for instance the Specification at page 1, line 19 – page 2, line 17; page 7, line 13 – page 8, line 6). Thus, the admitted prior art of Fig. 1 clearly fails to disclose any transformation of "digital speech codes defining a waveform having positive and negative half cycles to an analog speech signal with its negative half cycles inverted to positive polarity," as Claim 1 now more clearly recites. The admitted prior art teaches quite to the contrary, in fact.

Given such contrary teachings of the primarily-cited prior art, the teachings of the secondarily-cited Huang reference are found to be quite ineffectual to the

present patentability analysis. Huang was merely cited for disclosing the use of a digital-to-analog converter in a particular context. Huang nowhere discloses or even suggests any circuit approach effecting transformation of digital speech code waveforms in such manner as now more clearly recited by newly-amended independent Claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the admitted prior art and Huang, even when considered together, fail to disclose the unique combination of elements recited now more clearly by newly-amended independent Claim 1 for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Patent Application.

Thus, it is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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